Net Zero Action Plan 2024-2030

PLANET DARTFORD

DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Priority 1 - Organisational Emissions

Focus: The Council aims to reduce its organisational carbon emissions to net-zero by 2030

Key Performance Indicator:

- DBC Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Target	Action	Timeline	Council Role	Indicative Cost	Potential Carbon Impact	Comments
OE1. Identify pathways to reducing emission from our corporate estate to net zero carbon by 2030	O1. Decarbonise the Civic Centre	2024 / 25	Deliver	Funding secured via Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme: £1,340,802. (total for O1, O2 and O3)	High	✓ Funding secured via Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme ✓ Heating system has been decarbonised and we now have a low energy electric heating system using Air Source Heat Pumps & Hydro-kits that are powered by photovoltaic panels. Low energy LED lighting has also been installed along with a Building Management System (BMS)
	O2. Decarbonise the Orchard Theatre	2024 / 25	Deliver	Funding secured via Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme: £1,340,802. (total for O1, O2 and O3)	High	✓ Funding secured via Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme ✓ Heating system has been decarbonised and we now have a low energy electric heating system using Air Source Heat Pumps & Hydro-kits that are powered by photovoltaic panels. Low energy LED lighting has also been installed along with a BMS.

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	O3. Decarbonise Acacia Sports Hall	2024 / 25	Deliver	Funding secured via Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme: £1,340,802. (total for O1, O2 and O3)	High	✓ Funding secured via Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme ✓ Photovoltaic panels installed (110kW) on the roof as well as low energy LED lighting.
	O4. Decarbonise Fairfield Leisure Centre	2024 / 25	Deliver	Funding secured via Public Sector Decarbonisation scheme: £1,508,475	High	✓ Funding secured via Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme ✓ Fitted 20 outside air units that are linked to 20 Hydrokits. These work on demand to produce hot water for showers, heating and of course the pool. ✓ Fitted 354 KW's of solar PV to the roof and solar car port.
	O5.Continue to identify and develop pathways to reducing emissions across council buildings	2025 / 26 >	Deliver	High	High	• Scoping underway.
OE2. Develop a plan to reduce emissions from travel by converting our fleet to zero emissions including contractor vehicles through the procurement process	O6. Investigate the options for converting fleet to zero emissions including EV pool cars for business use.	2025 / 26 >	Deliver	High	High	• Scoping underway.
	O7. Develop a plan to work with all existing contractors (including waste fleet) to reduce their carbon footprint from fuel consumption and make explicit their goals in terms of carbon reduction.	2025 / 26 >	Support	Low	Medium	• Scoping underway.

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OE3. Promote reduction and re-use as well as recycling, and aim to become a zero waste organisation	O8. Phase out single use plastics in Council Offices/ buildings/ events	2025 / 26	Deliver	Low	Low	✓ Single use plastics phased out of Civic Centre. ✓ New recycling initiatives introduced.
	O9. Reduce our reliance on paper by largely phasing out printed agendas and reports in favour of electronic versions, continuing and enhancing suitable arrangements where appropriate.	2024 / 25	Deliver	Low	Medium	✓ All Cllrs have been offered/supplied with an iPad. ✓ All agendas are available electronically. ✓ Reviewing Mod.Gov App. functionality / upgrade options
	O10. Look at opportunities for reusing and recycling our waste, including reusing our office furniture to support our hybrid working colleagues, donating our used IT equipment to schools and charities and recycling as much of our waste as possible including food waste	2025 / 26 >	Deliver	Low	Low	• Scoping underway.
OE4. Ensure sustainable procurement practices throughout the council as part of the Council's Procurement Strategy	O11. Review the Councils Procurement Strategy and adopt a revised strategy that is consistent with the promotion of sustainable and ethical trading.	2024 / 25	Deliver	Low	Medium	✓ Procurement Strategy reviewed and redesigned to incorporate best practice.

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	O12. Investigate the opportunities to switch to a green tariff at the end of the current energy procurement contract.	2024 / 25	Deliver	Low	Medium	✓ From October 2024 the Council will enter into a contract for the Blend of REGO/Zero Carbon for Business (Electricity supplied from a combination of 50% Renewable and 50% zero carbon) under the Crown Commercial Services (CCS) contract.
OE5. Reduce car journeys for the commute by DBC staff and promote zero carbon transport including active transport.	O13. Develop a staff travel plan that considers a variety of travel options for staff including car clubs, ULEV salary sacrifice scheme, Cycle to Work scheme and active travel incentives.	2025 / 26	Deliver	Medium	Medium	✓ Cycle to Work scheme active. • Scoping required.
	O14. Support Hybrid Working and encouraging council staff to work from home when possible, reducing the need for travel	2024 /25	Deliver	Low	Low	✓ Hybrid Working Policy already adopted and in place.
OE6. Provide Carbon Literacy training to DBC staff and Councillors	O15. Devise a Carbon Literacy training plan for Staff and Councillors starting with Senior Management and Cabinet Members before a wider roll out.	2024 / 25	Deliver	£2,160	Low	✓ Training developed, officer and member training roll out has begun.

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Priority 2 - Transport

Focus: Support the shift towards cleaner modes of transport and reduce car dependency with co-benefits to air quality and health.

Key Performance Indicator:

- Number of ultra low emission vehicles registered in the Local Authority area
- Number of public EV charging points in the Borough
- Cycle and footway usage in town centre at key junctions/nodes

Target	Action	Timeline	Council Role	Indicative Cost	Potential Carbon Impact	Comments
TR1. Support active travel (walking & cycling) public transport and the use of electric vehicles in the Borough	T1. Support the development of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for Dartford to identify cycling and walking infrastructure improvements, and provide a framework and methodology to support funding bids.	2024 / 25 >	Deliver	Low	Medium	✓ Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) approved by Cabinet in July 2023. ✓ Roll out ongoing.
	T2. Promote the use of electric vehicles by supporting the improvement of EV infrastructure in the Borough, promoting grants for EV vehicles / charging and investigating opportunities for an EV car sharing club	2025 / 26 >	Enable	Low (Opportunity for revenue generation)	High	• Working with KCC and EV Charger providers on a proposal for all DBC Car Parks.
	T3. Work with Kent County Council, Arriva and Southeastern Railway to support the promotion of public transport, where appropriate	2025 / 26 >	Support	Low	Low	• Scoping required.

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TR2. Work with Kent County Council to reduce volume of traffic on our roads and improve our transport infrastructure in favour of active transport	T4. Support the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy and the implementation of the Rights of Way Improvement Plans for Kent to develop motor vehicle free routes for walking and cycling.	2024 / 25 >	Support	Low	Medium	• Working with KCC via the Climate Change Network.
	T5. Support KCC trials of new transport projects that drive the transition to Ultra Low Emission Vehicle public transport, including fully electric bus routes in Dartford (FastTrack)	2025 / 26	Enable	Low	Medium	• Electric Buses due in the Borough by April 2025.
TR3. Implement DBC Air Quality Action Plan for 2022-2027	T6. Implement the Air Quality Action Plan measures including; Promoting Low Emission Transport, Traffic Management and behavioural change campaigns e.g. borough wide anti-idling campaign	2024 / 25 >	Deliver	Low	High	✓ Air Quality Action Plan adopted by Cabinet - January 2023. ✓ Anti-idling campaigns implemented. ✓ Working with KCC.
TR4. Produce a DBC EV Strategy and improve the network of EV Charge Points in the Borough	T7. Develop a DBC EV Strategy and Action Plan to support the widespread transition to electric vehicles	2025 / 26	Deliver	Low	High	• Work underway on EV Strategy.
	T8. Continue the roll out of EV Charge Points in Council owned car parks	2025 / 26 >	Deliver	Low	Medium	• In development, working with KCC and EV providers.

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	T9. Work with partners to provide on-street residential charge points in the Borough	2025 / 26 >	Enable	Low	High	• Discussions underway with KCC.
TR5. Develop a path towards a low carbon taxi fleet	T10. Review the Council's Driver and Vehicle Standards and Policies to create a greener fleet of taxis in the Borough.	2025 / 26 >	Deliver	Low	Medium	• Policy review underway.
Priority 3 - Built Environment Focus: Improve the energy efficiency of buildings and support the shift away from fossil fuel powered heating systems to low-carbon technologies.						
Key Performance Indicator: ➢ Number of energy efficiency measures provided to private homes ➢ Number of energy efficiency measures provided to DBC homes ➢ % of households deemed to be in fuel poverty ➢ Number of non-residential completions that achieve BREEAM excellent ➢ Percentage of dwellings granted planning permission which are on sites identified in the Local Plan and therefore located in sustainable locations						
Target	**Action**	**Timeline**	**Council role**	**Indicative Cost**	**Potential Carbon Impact**	**Comments**
BE1. Continue to champion more sustainable development through the Local Plan (within the legal parameters allowed)	B1. Support national policy on sustainable development via the new Dartford Local Plan policy 'M3' which contains a range of requirements for residential developments including reducing embodied and operational carbon emissions, improving energy performance and preserving water.	2024 / 25 >	Support	Low	Medium	✓ New Dartford Local Plan adopted April 2024 which supports the agenda.

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BE2. Establish a decarbonisation path for our existing council stock	B2. Complete a stock condition survey and develop a delivery plan for decarbonisation of council homes to include types of properties, works required and timescales	2024 / 25 >	Deliver	Social Housing Decarbonisation funding: £1,700,000	High	✓ Social Housing Decarbonisation Funding secured for 145 External Wall Insulation with approximately 20 of those properties also needing loft insulation. This scheme is currently being delivered through use of the Council's procured contractor
	B3. Investigate potential for installing water saving measures in council owned residential properties (e.g tap aerator, universal sink plugs, cistern displacement device, water efficient shower head)	2025 / 26 >	Deliver	Low	Low	• Stock condition survey will assess this ambition.
BE3. Ensure all Council led housing development is built to low carbon standards.	B4. Aim for new build homes to have an EPC rating of A or B	2025 / 26 >	Deliver	Low	Medium	• Ongoing.
BE4. Work with partners to improve the energy efficiency of homes in the private sector.	B5. Continue to work with partners on grant funded energy efficiency work to improve the EPC rating of owner occupied properties in the Borough including insulation, solar PV Panels etc.	2024 / 25 >	Deliver	Grant funded including; Home Upgrade Grant scheme funding: £2,070,000	High	✓ Successful in securing funding for Home Upgrade Grant scheme – work continues to provide energy efficiency measures to Dartford residents. ✓ Connected for warmth scheme funding ✓ Household Support Scheme Funding secured from 2022 - 2024 ✓ Solar Together Scheme ✓ Kent Energy Deal

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Priority 4 - Energy Generation

Focus: support the generation of renewable energy across the Borough.

Key Performance Indicator:

- Number of local groups supported through Community Grants and other grant schemes
- Number of non-residential completions that achieve BREEAM excellent

Target	Action	Timeline	Council role	Indicative Cost	Potential Carbon Impact	Comments
EG1. Encourage new developments to maximise opportunities for implementing renewable energy technologies, where appropriate	E1. Champion Local Plan policy M3 part 9 which sets out clear criteria so that appropriate energy storage or small and large scale low/ zero carbon technology and installations can be developed	2024 / 25 >	Support	Low	Medium	✓ New Dartford Local Plan adopted April 2024.
EG2. Support residents and businesses to reduce energy consumption and increase renewable energy purchase and generation	E2. Signpost residents and businesses to energy efficiency / renewable energy funding opportunities and promote ways to reduce energy consumption	2024 / 25 >	Support	Low	Medium	✓ Engaged in Solar Together Kent Scheme and Kent Energy Deal.
EG3. Identify opportunities for (and facilitate) community power generation in the borough	E3. Investigate and implement opportunities for community energy projects in conjunction with other stakeholders, including not-for-profit organisations	2025 / 26 >	Support / Enable	Low	Medium	• Scoping required.

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Priority 5 - Waste

Focus: Support the Borough to reduce waste, reuse, recycle, compost and encourage a circular economy.

Key Performance Indicator:

- Percentage of Household Waste for Reuse, Recycling and Composting
- Percentage of household waste going to landfill
- Number of households taking part in green bin service

Target	Action	Timeline	Council role	Indicative Cost	Potential Carbon Impact	Comments
WA1. Support residents, and businesses to reduce, re-use, recycle and compost	W1. Work with the Kent Resource Partnership on campaigns and initiatives to encourage people to reduce their waste and to maximise recycling	2025 / 26 >	Partnership	Low	Medium	• Ongoing.
	W2. Work with local schools to encourage reduction, re-use, recycling and composting	2024 / 25	Partnership	Low	Medium	✓ Regular Litter Picks established with local schools.
	W3. Consider options to increase public access to drinking water to reduce single use plastics	2025 / 26 >	Enable	Low	Low	• Scoping required.
WA2. Improve recycling rates in the Borough	W4. Review the waste management service to identify more sustainable ways of working, reduce residual waste and increase recycling.	2025 / 26 >	Deliver	High	High	• Reviewing the current waste contract ongoing as part of the upcoming tender with a view to Government policy directives.

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	W5. Work with KCC on their proposal to establish a new waste transfer station in the Borough.	2025 / 26 >	Enable / Partnership	Low	Medium	• Ongoing.
	W6. Implement a separate food waste collection service in the Borough	2025 / 26 >	Deliver / Partnership	Medium	Medium	• Will be in place by April 2026.
WA3. Champion circular economy principles and the waste hierarchy of resource Reduction and Reuse before Recycling.	W7. Support recycling and upcycling in the Borough through the encouragement of community Repair Cafes	2024 / 25 >	Support	Low	Low	✓ Support / promotion of repair cafes at Temple Hill Community Centre & Tree Community Centre.
	W8. Support and promote reduction and reuse campaigns in communities and schools	2024 / 25 >	Support	Low	Low	✓ Regular Litter Picks established with local schools. ✓ Use KCC/DBC communications.

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Priority 6 - Land Use & Biodiversity

Focus: Protect, enhance and increase green space for the benefit of people, wildlife, flood defence and carbon capture.

Key Performance Indicator:

- Number of new planning permissions granted delivering bio-diversity enhancements (on and off site) (BNG)
- Small projects carried out to support the creation of pollination corridors
- New open spaces/recreational facilities provided in new developments

Target	Action	Timeline	Council role	Indicative Cost	Potential Carbon Impact	Comments
L&B1. Produce and adopt a Biodiversity Strategy	LB1. Research and develop a Biodiversity Strategy that provides a plan of action to ensure that plants, animals and ecosystems are conserved, protected and enhanced and that progress is tracked, using measurable targets.	2025 / 26 >	Deliver	Low	Medium	✓ Supporting and inputting into The Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy. ✓ Scoping DBC specific policy.
L&B2. Continue to champion biodiversity net gain on new developments through the Local Plan	LB2. Champion the Local Plan policy M15 which establishes several requirements to promote biodiversity. This includes that protected sites will be conserved/ enhanced, developer contributions required in support of internationally recognised habitats, new national Biodiversity Net Gain stipulations applied, developments to be landscaped to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and trees retained/ provided as appropriate.	2024 / 25 >	Support	Low	Medium	✓ New Dartford Local Plan adopted April 2024.

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	LB3. Champion the Local Plan policy (M4) which is focussed on managing flood risk alongside setting additional design requirements of riverside developments to achieve environmental and social aims.	2024 / 25 >	Support	Low	Medium	✓ New Dartford Local Plan adopted April 2024.
L&B3. Improve access to open space, food growing and wildlife through land management, community gardening and habitat creation	LB4. Increasing pollination corridor across the Borough, by increasing wildflower meadows and better planting. Mitigating for species flow as part of climate change resilience by ensuring the right plant, right place, by enhancing and restoring habitats, and improving formal planting schemes on council owned land.	2024 / 25 >	Deliver	Medium	Medium	✓ Creation of wildflower meadows, community orchards, hedgerows and planting trees across the Borough. ✓ Increasing pollination corridors across the borough, with areas being allowed to naturalise – in conjunction with nationally recognised schemes such as Burial Grounds to Inspire. ✓ Enhancement and restoration of differing habitat types to enable better species flow. ✓ Changes to planting schemes within formal gardens, to ensure that plants are perennial ensuring reduction in soil disturbance and thus carbon release. ✓ Creation of better established plants that are best for pollinators and provide refuge for over wintering insects and food source for wildlife, whilst still providing year round interest for people; within parks and communal gardens on sheltered housing sites.

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	LB5. Continue to deliver campaigns to support a reduction in littering and fly-tipping	2024 / 25 >	Deliver	Low	Low	• Ongoing.
L&B4. Produce habitat management plans to enhance, restore to favourable conditions for effective sequestration of carbon.	LB6. To ensure that vast habitat mosaic across the Borough can increase biodiversity, and thus having favourable habitat condition will ensure climate change resilience for species flow, and in wetland areas flood defence. This will include tree stock assessment and working with Government guidance on tree replacements to cope with the climate change.	2025 / 26 >	Deliver	Low	Medium	• See L&B3.

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Priority 7 – Governance & Finance

Focus: Embed climate change in all decision making and governance at the Council

Key Performance Indicator:

- DBC Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Target	Action	Timeline	Council role	Indicative Cost	Potential Carbon Impact	Comments
GF1. Ensure climate change is embedded in our key strategies, plans and performance indicators	G1. Review Performance Indicators to ensure Climate Change is embedded throughout	2024 / 25 >	Deliver	Low	High	✓ New Corporate Plan and KPIs being developed with strong Environment priority / objectives ✓ Carbon Impact Assessment process embedding into decision making.
	G2. Review key strategies and service plans and ensure Climate Change is considered going forward.	2025 / 26 >	Deliver	Low	Medium	• Carbon Impact Assessment process embedding into decision making
GF2. Incorporate climate change into our governance structure	G3. Continue to review and enhance our governance by embedding climate change-related responsibilities across the Council	2024 / 25 >	Deliver	Low	Medium	✓ Climate Change Team established ✓ New Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Natural Environment ✓ Carbon Impact Assessment process embedding into decision making
GF3. Embed sustainability into all commissioning, procurement and contract management processes	G4. Review the Councils Procurement Strategy to strengthen the procurement process ensuring environmental considerations are made when procuring goods and services	2024 / 25	Deliver	Low	High	✓ Procurement Strategy reviewed and strengthened in terms of environmental considerations. ✓ Carbon Impact Assessment process embedding into decision making

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GF4. Ensure climate and environmental factors are integrated into mainstream financial decision making.	G5. Ensure current and future financial risks and opportunities from climate and environmental factors are integrated into mainstream financial decision making at the Council	2024 / 25 >	Deliver	Low	Medium	• Carbon Impact Assessment process embedding into decision making

Priority 8 – Collaboration & Engagement

Focus: Empower residents, businesses and communities to make informed decisions on climate change and access relevant grants.

Key Performance Indicator:

- Number of local groups supported through Community Grants and other grant schemes
- Number of Community projects funded through Community Infrastructure Levy funding

Target	Action	Timeline	Council role	Indicative Cost	Potential Carbon Impact	Comments
C&E1. Raise awareness of Climate Change and Biodiversity loss via the implementation of a Communications Strategy	CE1. Develop and implement a Climate Change Communications strategy that empowers communities to make informed decisions on climate change	2025 / 26 >	Deliver	Low	Medium	• Ongoing via a defined communications plan.
C&E2. Support community activities aimed at decreasing emissions and increasing local resilience to climate change	CE2. Support Repair Cafes, Community gardens / allotments, Community Fridge networks, Car sharing clubs.	2024 / 25 >	Support	Low	Medium	✓ Planet Dartford Green Grant Fund established ✓ Support / promotion of repair cafes at Temple Hill Community Centre & Tree Community Centre

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C&E3. Signpost residents and businesses to relevant grants	CE3. Support residents and local businesses to access grant funding (e.g. EV purchase and charging, energy efficiency measures etc)	2024 / 25 >	Support	Low	Medium	✓ DBC Energy Efficiency webpage regularly updated with latest grant information ✓ Planet Dartford Green Grant Fund established ✓ Supporting local businesses with carbon audits / decarbonisation via UK Shared Prosperity Fund
C&E4. Work with all partners and key stakeholders to address climate change	CE4. Proactively build networks with partners and key stakeholders in order to work together on projects to address climate change, including working with KCC and supporting the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy to reach the Borough wide target of Net Zero carbon emissions by 2050.	2024 / 25 >	Support / Partnership	Low	Medium	✓ Joined the KCC Climate Change Network, which connects all Kent Local Authorities to work in partnership on climate action / ideas.

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